

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PRC-USSR-MIDDLE EAST

COINCIDING WITH THE OPENING OF THE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN RABAT, THE PRC MEDIA HAS STEPPED UP ITS ATTACKS ON MOSCOW'S MIDDLE EAST POLICIES. ACCORDING TO A RECENT NCNA ARTICLE:

--THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY "PUSHED ASIDE" BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND A US THAT IS "ON THE OFFENSIVE;"

--MOSCOW NOW FAVORS THE CONVENING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE (WITH PLO PARTICIPATION) AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR AN "OVERALL" AND "IMMEDIATE" POLITICAL SETTLEMENT;

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--MOSCOW IS SEEKING TO PORTRAY ITSELF AS A SUPPORTER OF THE PALESTINIANS AND TO USE THE PLO AS A BARGAINING COUNTER TO US IMPERIALISM. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
HONG KONG 11777, 10/29.

2. MIDDLE EAST

THE US DAO IN TEL AVIV OBSERVES THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF WINTER WARFARE ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS IS NOT AS REMOTE AS ONCE BELIEVED.

--INCLEMENT WEATHER AND RUGGED TERRAIN WOULD ACTUALLY FAVOR A QUICK SYRIAN STRIKE FOR LIMITED OBJECTIVES.

--SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE ALL THE MORE TEMPTING BECAUSE ISRAEL WOULD CERTAINLY BE UNDER GREAT DIPLOMATIC PRES-SURE TO LIMIT ITS RESPONSE.

AT THE SAME TIME, EMBASSY TEL AVIV NOTES THAT ISRAEL IS PRESENTLY HOLDING TWO LARGE-SCALE MILITARY MANEUVERS. THEIR ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT MAY BE A WELCOME SIGN OF A MORE PRAGMATIC APPROACH BY ISRAEL. (CONFIDENTIAL) USDAO TEL AVIV 2291 NOFORN (LIMDIS)(CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 6170, 10/29.

3. CYPRUS

FINAL PRISONER EXCHANGES WERE COMPLETED OCTOBER 28. IN THE END, 530 GREEK AND 3000 TURKISH CYPRIOTS CHOSE TO RETURN TO HOMES IN THE OCCUPIED AREA. EMBASSY NICOSIA NOTES:

--THE EXCHANGES CONTINUE THE MARKED TREND TOWARD SEGREGATION OF POPULATIONS.

--THE NEXT STEP WILL PROBABLY BE PRESSURE TO REUNIFY FAMILIES -- A MOVE WHICH COULD ENABLE 13,000 TURKISH (AGAINST 2100 GREEK) CYPRIOTS TO MOVE NORTH. (CONFIDENTIAL) NICOSIA 3778, 10/29.

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4. GREECE

AMBASSADOR KUBISCH REPORTS THAT, IN A RECENT CONVERSATION, DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF SAID GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO:

--HAS CAUSED SOME EUROPEANS TO QUESTION THE SINCERITY OF GREECE'S DESIRE TO JOIN THE EC; AND

--IS BEGINNING TO BE SEEN BY THE MILITARY AS DETRI-
MENTAL TO GREEK SECURITY.

AVEROFF ADDED THAT, IF A SATISFACTORY CYPRUS SOLUTION
CAN BE FOUND AND RELATIONS WITH TURKEY SORTED OUT, GREECE
COULD CONCEIVABLY BEGIN REBUILDING ITS NATO TIES NEXT
YEAR. (CONFIDENTIAL) ATHENS 7810 (EXDIS), 10/29. INGERSOLL

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